

Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

DCS Communications Office

June 4, 2004

This Week In Central Office

Tuesday, June 1

Commissioner Miller spoke before the Joint Fiscal Review Committee and announced her plan for the new DCS scholarship/stipend program.

See PAGE 3 for details and contact information!

Wednesday, June 2

Commissioner Miller conducted supervisory training with the Shelby, Northwest and Southwest regions.

The Week Ahead

Thursday, June 10

Commissioner Miller will give brief remarks to the Tennessee State Employee Association (TSEA) representative assembly at the Marriott Cool Springs Convention Center just outside of Nashville.

Summer Trim Down: Take a load off!

Do you crave more time to do good quality work and wish to be rid of the hassles of unnecessary procedures and paperwork? Do you believe there are areas within our agency that we could "trim down" the process? If you answered yes, then put on your thinking cap. We need your help!

Senior management needs your assistance in identifying forms, policies, and procedures that you believe do not add any value to your work, and could possibly be abolished. Everything is open for consideration; however, items that are mandated by a federal statute, a state statute or a consent decree obviously cannot be included in this effort.



Email your suggestions to DCS.Challenge@state.tn.us and please be as specific as possible in referencing the policy or procedure you wish to be considered in this "trim down". Submit your ideas and suggestions as soon as possible, however they need to be received by the close of business on June 30th.

From the Desk of Viola Miller: Congregate Care

Every child deserves a home with loving adults, but congregate care cannot be that home. Never should a congregate care setting of any sort be used simply for convenience. There are only three legitimate reasons for the use of congregate settings:

- ◆ The child cannot safely (self and others) be maintained in a home like setting;
- ◆ The child has specific, defined treatment needs which can only be met in an intensive therapeutic facility;
- ◆ The child has been adjudicated as delinquent for criminal offenses that require treatment in a youth development center.

Any child not meeting one of these three guidelines must be given the opportunity for a life with a stable, qualified appropriate family.

Rarely, if ever, is a child under eight appropriate for anything other than a family setting.

Emergency shelters primarily reflect a lack of initiative on our part. If we do the crucial work of recruiting high quality foster homes, supporting them and the children in their care

and carefully matching children to families, our use of emergency shelters will diminish significantly.

Perhaps you can teach me, but as of now I simply do not understand placing our children in congregate settings exclusively for assessment purposes. None of us would do that to our own children. If they needed assessments we would take them to an appropriate place, stay with them to lend support and then take them home.

If we can ask ourselves one question..."Is this what I would want for my own child", then perhaps we can begin to make the right decisions for our DCS children.

There are tremendous needs for treatment specific, intensive therapeutic services for our children. We will always use congregate settings to help us respond to the service requirements for certain children. However, if we really believe that every child deserves a home with loving adults, we will use our congregate settings wisely and well.

DCS Scholarship/Stipend Program: Getting more to give back

The DCS Scholarship/Stipend Program will be available to undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor's degree and graduate students pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work.



Additionally, any DCS employee currently pursuing a BSW degree from one of the thirteen accredited social work programs across the state must contact his/her university's social work department for information regarding the application/selection process.

The universities involved in the scholarship/stipend program are:

Austin Peay University
Belmont University
David Lipscomb
East TN State University
Freed-Hardeman University
Lincoln Memorial University
Middle Tennessee State University
Southern Adventist University
TN State University
Union University
University of Memphis
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Tennessee, Martin

**For further details and inquiries, DCS employees should call
Carolyna Smith @ 615.687.6554**

Click the links below to read what others are saying about this innovative program!

The Tennessean

http://www.tennessean.com/education/archives/04/05/52172971.shtml?Element_ID=52172971

The Knoxville News Sentinel

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/state/article/0,1406,KNS_348_2930493,00.html

The Tennessean: Editorial

http://tennessean.com/opinion/archives/04/05/52261809.shtml?Element_ID=52261809





But if one is a servant, either leader or follower, one is always searching, listening, expecting that a better wheel for these times is in the making.

~Robert K. Greenleaf

You can't have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all the time.

~Charles F. Kettering, American Engineer/Inventor

For many people, change is more threatening than challenging. They see it as the destroyer of what is familiar and comfortable rather than the creator of what is new and exciting.

~Nido Qubein

JOKES!

Whether a man winds up with the nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough "horse sense" to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never be an old nag.

On anniversaries the wise husband always forgets the past...but never the present. A foolish husband remarks to his wife: "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin', and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work."

Many girls like to marry a military man--he can cook, sew, make beds, and is in good health...and he's already used to taking orders.